

(Washington, DC)— Congresswoman Gwen Moore secured a total of \$500,000 in the Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill that is expected to pass the House this week. The money would go to strengthen area communities and make their streets safer by funding additional street surveillance cameras, a teen after-school program, a community safety initiative to build partnerships between police and community developers, and a rehabilitation program for female inmates.

“This money would go to a wide variety of initiatives and equipment which can help curb crime and vandalism in our communities, provide a needed teen after-school program, and help former female inmates with their transition back into the community,” Congresswoman Gwen Moore said.

The Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill included the following funds requested by Rep. Moore for a total of \$500,000:

- \$200,000 for the Local Initiatives Support Corporation’s (LISC) Community Safety Initiative (CSI), a public/private venture that builds formal partnerships between police and community developers in challenged neighborhoods
- \$150,000 for the Running Rebels Youth After-School Program
- \$100,000 to go to the Cudahy Police Department to add three surveillance cameras in Cudahy
- \$50,000 for the Benedict Center’s substance abuse and criminal behavior rehabilitation program for female inmates.

The LISC’s Community Safety Initiative is a nationwide program that would be implemented in Milwaukee to build partnerships between police and community developers to encourage community safety practices. The purpose is to bring in more businesses, housing and commercial developments to take the place of problem spots in neighborhoods. The result would be less crime, new assets, as well as more homeowners and investors that create economic opportunities for what would become a healthier neighborhood. The CSI program would receive \$200,000.

Moore also secured another \$150,000 for the Running Rebels Youth After-School Program, which would target at-risk, inner-city youth ages 16-18 who face negative influences after school each day, such as delinquency, gangs, substance abuse or pressure to engage in unprotected sex. Providing crucial educational opportunities for at-risk teenagers while keeping them in a safe environment after-school, the program would offer life skills training, job retention skills, financial literacy, health and wellness education, academic tutoring and job training.

“Our youth are our future and these funds will invest in their future by providing significant

educational opportunities for teenagers during the crucial after-school hours when most at-risk behaviors occur,” Moore said.

Another \$100,000 would provide three cameras and recording systems to be mounted on existing poles in Cudahy to serve as a deterrent to crime, vandalism and terrorism. The evidence obtained from the cameras would be admissible in court.

“These cameras are the next best thing to having a police officer on the corner – they are another set of eyes that could help deter crime in our neighborhoods,” Moore said.

Moore also sought and secured funds for the Benedict Center’s Women’s Harm Reduction program that works to rehabilitate female inmates, helping them to lead a responsible, healthy and crime-free life after re-entry into the community. Females make up ten percent of Milwaukee County’s incarcerated and this program would help encourage inmates to live a safe and crime-free life after serving their sentence.

“These funds would help formerly incarcerated women in their effort to build a responsible, healthy, drug and crime-free life for themselves and their children,” Moore said. “It is vital that these women have resources to help them re-enter the community so that they may be constructive and contributing members of the community.”

The Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill is expected to pass the House this week. It is now pending in the Senate, which will pass its own version of the bill. Later this year, a House-Senate conference committee will meet to work out a final compromise version of the bills that can be sent to the President.

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